BIOGRAPHY, LORD AVEBURY

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LORD AVEBURY, 55, WAS EDUCATED AT HARROW SCHOOL AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY. IN 1962 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY, WINNING A CRUCIAL SEAT FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN A BYE-ELECTION. DURING HIS PERIOD IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, FROM 1962-1970, HE SERVED AS LIBERAL PARTY WHIP. IN 1970 HE SUCCEEDED TO THE TITLE OF LORD AVEBURY, SINCE WHEN HE HAS SAT IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

HE IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, AN INTER-PARTY GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHICH RAISES HUMAN ROIGHTS ISSUES. LORD AVEBURY HAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS: HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MISSION TOI SRI LANKA IN 1971, MEMBER OF AN AMNESTY MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1978 AND IN THE SAME YEAR REPRESENTED THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN A TEAM SENT TO BOLIVIA TO OBSERVE THE GENERAL ELECTIONS: IN 1980 HE WAS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO GUYANA TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS. IN 1982 HE JOINED A UK TEAM TO HONDURAS TO ASSESS THE REFUGEE SITUATION THERE, AND THE SAME YEAR VISITED ERITREA AS A GUEST OF THE ERITREAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY OUTSPOKEN IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT ON THE EAST TIMOR QUESTION--TABLING EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES AND CONTINUALLY QUESTIONING BRITISH POLICY. IN 1982 HE ADDRESSED THE UN'S FOURTH COMMITTEE (DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE) ON THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR.

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